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OPINION — NEWS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: In the spirit of resolutions: curiosity and empathy

January 17, 2025 . 3:09 PM — 1 min read

There has been a spike in anti-Islamic rhetoric following the New Year's Eve attack in New Orleans, and some organizations have been subjected to threatening messages. (Newsweek, Hugh Cameron, 1/3/25).

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There has been a “historic spike” in anti-Jewish threats since the war between Israel and Hamas began; both Jews and Muslims have reported a surge of hate crimes and bias incidents during this time. (CNN, Josh Campbell, 10-7-24)

Unfortunately, when members of a minority religious, racial or ethnic group perpetrate harm, there are people who tend to stereotype and judge all members of the group.

While we have not heard reports of recent Islamophobic or anti-Semitic incidents in Winchester, we know that Massachusetts, national and international news impacts our local community when people do not feel safe themselves, and/or fear for or are grieving for loved ones elsewhere.

In preparing this letter, we considered the range of thoughts and emotions that it may bring up for readers of different backgrounds. Some who have always experienced Winchester as a safe community might question its relevance; others may feel relieved to have their concerns be acknowledged.

In the spirit of resolutions for the new year, one hope is that we might approach each other with curiosity and empathy. That curiosity may lead us to listen more intently, and expand our perspectives.

And, if you have experienced or witnessed an incident of harassment, bias or hate, you can receive support from the NFSJ’s Response and Advocacy Committee by sending a confidential email to responseandadvocacy@nfsj.org.

Rebecca Slisz, Executive Director, Network for Social Justice

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OPINION

Salvation Army thanks Winchester for Red Kettle Campaign support

To the Editor: As we begin 2026, The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the residents, businesses, and volunteers in the Winchester area who supported the 2025 Red Kettle Campaign. Your generosity and kindness during the holiday season brought comfort, hope, and tangible support

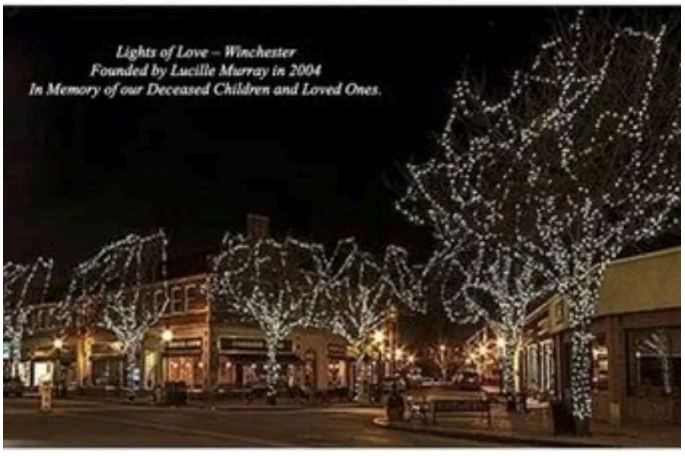
February 10, 2026

OPINION

Yes, Virginia...There is a Santa Claus

Editor's Note: Francis P. Church's editorial, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" first appeared in The New York Sun in 1897, and was reprinted annually until 1949 when the paper went out of business. When it first appeared, it was an immediate sensation, and became one of

December 25, 2025



OPINION

'Lights of Love' in Winchester looking for donations this holiday season

OPINION

The return of the winter paunch is nothing to worry about — Just ask any squirrel

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Dear friends and supporters: My husband and I founded the “Lights of Love” – Winchester in 2004. For more than two decades, the “Lights of Love” has illuminated our Town Center and downtown area all year round – a glowing tribute in memory of our deceased children, family members and friends whose

December 9, 2025

Over the past couple of weeks there’s been a familiar seasonal sighting around our Dublin house. The object in question usually appears when I’m stepping into the shower or getting ready for bed, and it’s a 100% reliable sign that summer and autumn have ended and colder

STEVE CORONELLA | FOR WHAT IT’S WORTH

December 1, 2025

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women’s History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester’s School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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